

beedi workers, domestic workers and MGNREGA beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year.

Implementation of PPF scheme for unorganised sector

4460. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme is implemented for the unorganised sector throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the details of the States where it is not implemented; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to cover all the employees in the unorganized sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) to (c) There is no Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme specially for unorganised sector, being implemented by the Government. However, to encourage the workers of unorganised sector to voluntarily save for their retirement and to lower the cost of operations of the New Pension System (NPS) for such subscribers, the Central Government launched a co-contributory pension scheme 'Swavalamban' on 29.09.2010. The Government of India (GoI) contributes a sum of Rs. 1,000 to each eligible NPS subscriber who contributes a minimum of Rs 1,000 and maximum Rs. 12,000 per annum under the Swavalamban Scheme. The Government has targeted to cover around 10 lakh subscribers each during the 4 years of the Scheme.

EPF pension scheme

†4461. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh had accorded its approval to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Shimla *vide* its letter No. FDS-A(4)6/2004 dated 31 August, 2007 for giving concession in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) pension scheme to those employees who come under the EPF scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supply Department had also requested the office of the Provident Fund Commissioner to give concession to its employees in EPF scheme; and

(d) the time likely to be taken for it and since when it is pending?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) Government of Himachal Pradesh has accorded its approval for introduction of the Pension Scheme to the employees of Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited under the Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Employees Superannuation Fund and Contributory Pension Fund Rules, 2006 subject to the fulfillment of one of the condition that the Administrative Department/Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation also obtains prior approval of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (RPFC) for this proposed switch over from CPF Scheme to Pension Scheme under information to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

(c) The establishment applied for NOC/Exclusion under section 16 of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 *vide* its letter dated 23.07.2007 and 6.09.2007 and the same was rejected *vide* letter dated 10.09.2007 as certain categories of employees were excluded from the purview of the New Pension Scheme proposed by the establishment.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

Employment exchanges in Bihar

4462. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of employment exchanges in Bihar;
- (b) the persons registered with each employment exchange as on date;
- (c) the details of employment provided to the people during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve the performance of employment exchanges in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) As per information available with Directorate General of Employment & Training, 37 employment exchanges including University Employment Information & Guidance Bureaux are functioning in Bihar. Exchange-wise number of job seekers registered with the employment exchanges in Bihar at the end of February, 2012 is given in Statement. (*See below*)

(c) Number of job seekers provided employment through employment exchanges in Bihar during 2009, 2010 and 2011 was 4024, 3167 and 2275 respectively.

(d) The Employment Exchanges functioning under the respective State Government/ Union Territory Administrations facilitate interaction between employers